

Moran Meets With New Iraqi President

Iraqi Leader, Moran Discuss Future of Iraq

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today met with the new interim Iraqi President, Sheikh Ghazi al-Yawar, during a meeting on Capitol Hill. The president and Moran discussed the future of Iraq and the role that the Iraqis and Americans will play in ensuring that stability and democratic principles will prevail in the country.

"If we have to count the number of times the United States has moved to bring freedom to the people of the world - it is uncountable," President al-Yawar said during the meeting. "I speak for the majority of Iraqis. They are your friends. They are appreciative."

During the hour-long meeting, Moran and President al-Yawar discussed the June 30 hand-over of power from the U.S. led Coalition Provincial Government to the new Iraqi interim government. Current plans are for elections for a transition government by January 31, 2005, with votes on a permanent constitution by October 31, 2005, and for a permanent government by December 15, 2005.

"If the United States is to succeed in Iraq, we must make certain that the Iraqis take control of their country and its future," Moran said. "Our troops have sacrificed to give Iraqis the opportunity for a stable and free country. Now it is up to the Iraqis to see that the goals of freedom and sovereignty are fulfilled."

President al-Yawar was in Washington, D.C., to meet with Members of Congress and to attend the funeral of President Ronald Reagan.

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